

## In the Specification

**Please amend the second full paragraph on page 9 as follows:**

The output voltages OUT1-OUT4 of the RC filters 5 for the lamps 1 form the input signals to the AND gate 6, which performs the well-known AND operation on input signals and generates an output signal to be supplied to a status determining device including a shut down terminal, SDOWN. This output signal is sent through an output resistor R3 located between the AND gate 6 and the shut down terminal SDOWN. The threshold voltage of the AND gate 6 is set to be about 2.5V such that the AND gate 6 generates a high level output when all the input signals are equal to or higher than 2.5V while it generates a low level output when any one of the input signals are smaller than 2.5V. Accordingly, if any one of the lamps 1 is inactive, the output of the AND gate 6 drops to a level below the threshold voltage. The shut down terminal SDOWN cuts off the supply voltage from to the lamps 1. A person of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that the predefined ranges for delineating the high voltage level and the low voltage level, as well as the threshold voltage level, may be adjusted as appropriate.